21 October 2011

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**Sixth Committee**
**Working Group on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction**

# Informal paper of the Working Group*

## I. Agreements on methodology

1. Discussions will be conducted in the Sixth Committee, focusing on a set of specific issues, in line with the content and mandate of resolution 65/33. The potential role of the International Law Commission will be considered when appropriate.

2. The Working Group will follow a step-by-step methodological approach.

3. Discussions will be framed within reasonable limits.

4. Matters of context, overlapping and/or interaction among different issues will be taken into account when appropriate.

5. Discussions will concentrate on legal matters.

6. When commenting on topics, delegations will consider:

   (a) International conventional law;

   (b) Customary international law;

   (c) National legislation;

   (d) National, regional and international court decisions;

   (e) Other frameworks and/or sources.

## II. Issues for discussion

1. Definition of the concept of universal jurisdiction:

   (a) The role and purpose of universal jurisdiction;

* The sources that may be taken into account and the issues for discussion constitute descriptive and open lists, not prescriptive or closed ones. Delegations may add and build upon them.



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(b) Relevant components;

(c) Distinction from other related concepts.

2. Scope of universal jurisdiction:

(a) Crimes under universal jurisdiction.

3. Application:

(a) Conditions for application;

(b) Criteria for exercising jurisdiction;

(c) Procedural aspects;

(d) Role of national judicial systems;

(e) Interaction with other concepts of international law;

(f) International assistance and cooperation.